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Until the railway ran south through the Illawarra district, that fertile range of territory was practically a *terra incognita* except to those courageous spirits who were not afraid of a long journey in the saddle or by coach; or, what was even more forbidding to some, a highly disagreeable trip along the coast in a collier, or something not always much better. Lake Macquarie and the Tuggerah Lakes were almost unknown, except to those who found their way there from Newcastle; and Gosford and the middle reaches of the Hawkesbury were not known but by those enterprising tourists and adventurous yachtsmen who have always been famous for their propensity of Commerce. But while that may require consideration and discussion it does not justify the ignoring of the convenience of Australian correspondents, whose importance in the general Eastern mail services grows from month to month. In the fixing of Wednesday's postal convention was made by the colonies to other interests. The AGENTS-GENERAL of Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales are to be commended for thus actively maintaining the rights of the colonies; and it is difficult to see how Mr. STURT, the First Lord of the Treasury, could be otherwise than impressed with their representations.

for making their way anywhere and everywhere. The new departure of the Railway Commissioners will go far to change all that. When people begin to realise that the places that have been familiar to them by name for years, and yet are no more than mere names, have been brought within easy access by rail, the next step will be to make the trip of which the opportunity is thus held invitingly open for them. They will be tempted by the cheap fares and the rapid communication, and in this way their range of observation will be widened, and our people's knowledge of their own country will be increased. It has often been a subject of remark that the scenic places and picturesque resorts of New

South Wales, in the possession of which this colony is so very highly favoured, have remained unappreciated and practically unknown so long. Distinguished visitors come here from all parts of the world, are charmed and enchanted with what we have to show them, and go away singing the praises of our rivers, our waterways, our mountains, our gorges, our caves, our cascades, and all that could make a country famous for its natural beauty. Yet the people who live almost on the spot, and whose natural heritage all these things are, have gone their way and taken no more notice for the most part than if the attractions Nature has bestowed so lavishly had lain in another hemisphere. It has been necessary

to drag people aside to look at what their own country had to show them, but now that the difficulties of time and distance and expense have been minimised, we may fairly conclude that the day of that kind of thing is over.

One scarcely realises at a glance all these holiday unannouncements mean. It is easy to see, of course, that to throw the country open in this way is to educate the people, and that to make them travel is to make the railways pay; but there is something else besides all that. We live at high pressure in these young colonies, and the temperature in the summer months is not always conducive to long-continued exertion, either bodily or mental. We want change of interest and change of scene,

whether we admit it to ourselves or not. And the full value of the enterprise of the Railway Department is disclosed when we reflect that the tired citizen, who has only a few days at most for his holidays, can get into the train any evening at Redfern and in a few hours find himself on the breezy mountain-tops, or deep in the leafy hollows by the waterways of the Hawkesbury, or with his rod and line at Como, or under a tent in the National Park, at an expense that would not overtax the resources of a labourer and with the least possible loss of time. At any of these places he is as deep in the country to all practical intents and purposes as if he had travelled for days or weeks. He has nothing to do but lie for long sunny

days together in the grass, drinking in the most health-giving draughts of refreshment from the sunlight and the open air. The cobwebs that collect about the brain are scattered, and worry and carking care are as far removed as the smoke and noise of the city. Nature is all about him, in the green trees and the springing grass and the sparkling water. He is among scenes that artists have traced over with brush and pencil, and brought into the city in their sketch-books, to make into pictures to hang on the walls of art societies' rooms for the refreshment and yet for the vexation of his eye. The cool greens and soft azure distances were far enough away then; but in this holiday season he is living all among them. For

the time being they are as much his own as they were of those writers of Australian verse who made word-pictures of them in their lines, as KENNEDALL did of Moomi and Araleen, and

"Nervous of the waterfalls!
The darling of the hills!
Whose house is under mountain walls,
By many letters riled!"

And when the brief holiday season is over, and he returns to his accustomed round of toil and trouble, he brings a real holiday sense of recuperation and refreshment with him. This, after all, is what holidays are for, and inasmuch as the new railway regulations bring such a desirable consummation nearer they are worthy of all commendation.

THE AGENTS-GENERAL of the various Australian colonies interested in the despatch of the mails from Australia to England have done well to assert their claims as superior to those of the British Chambers of Commerce, who object to Wednesday as the day of departure. In a matter of this kind all interests have to be considered. The mails are not carried at the entire cost of the British Government. If they were, the claims of British merchants, as represented by the Chambers of Commerce or any other institutions, might intervene and demand the right to be heard. And even as it is their representations ought, perhaps, not to be ignored. But the Australian colonies contribute to the

main subsidies, and it seems at least only reasonable that theirs should be the voice determining the day on which the mail should leave these shores. However the subsidies may be payable, England practically determines the matter of departure on her side, and Australia on hers. Obviously that is a convenient arrangement, for if any can tell which is the most convenient time of departure it is those who are to be inconvenienced at either end of the route. No doubt the meeting of the Eastern mails is an important element in the determination of the question, and probably that has to do with the intervention of the Chambers

S. N. Company's shed, with its building, shed belonging to the Union S. S. Company, with its contents, being totally destroyed. Considerable damage was caused to the wharves, and the steamer belonging to the Clarendon, Richmond and Macleay River & N. Company. The Macleay River Fire Brigade, with several volunteer companies, were engaged till late in the day. The damage is estimated at about £30,000. Nothing is known of the origin of the outbreak.

WILLIAM BROWN, 21 years of age, was admitted to the Sydney Hospital, to-day, suffering from a compound fracture of the left leg. Whilst driving a horse and buggy at Randwick the animal bolted, and the vehicle collided with a post, causing the injuries.

At Burwood several years ago iron pegs were driven into the ground to denote the levels and

for there to be all aggregate broken sections, and the transverse.

The tr for the Brisbane with the The Prince's Railway. March 1890 on the New principal of Brothers.



lives, as large as a man's head, are buried up and down, or laterally, so that the vector is compelled to look back, that the time has come for him to desert the people and to go to the insurance company.

All this however, does not deprive the insurance company of its right to demand the payment of the insurance. It is proud right to claim that its scope of duty and its responsibility are not limited to the insurance company.

From the Observatory to the outer planets is more or less a continuous line of sight.

You may make this as your starting point, and then you will find a whole world of things.

In order to obtain the right of vision, you must first of all look back upon your history, which is sure to be according to your own ideas, through the use of the so-called time machine, with which you can find out the things that have happened in the past.

Now and then, as you proceed, there is a burst of light, a revelation, if the time machine is used in the right way, the right method, if the time machine is used in the right way, the right method, if the time machine is used in the right way, the right method.

The guide will not be backward to the point of sight, but will be forward to the point of sight.

Perhaps when you have

When it is long while, even that there is no saying
what effect that terrible adventure will have on the
It is the pleasant way of these gentle Neapolitans.
They are not concerned to give you all the enjoyment
possible, but to have you in their case upon which
are interested only in the establishment of their case.
They may demand twice as much money as you
already, with due solemnity, arranged to pay for their
services.

From the lanes we pass to the unbroken lava fields of
the mountains. The dark stuff, with its crum, mental
not to extinguish your imagination like it
make it at such a time, and your imagination
represents the pillars and gives you the
disobeyed time and dragons pouring themselves
perfect stillness or an attack upon you.

So upward until the ash heap is reached. Here the Vestavian pony is left to itself to seek its way.

blade of grass during the ensuing two or three hours. When we have drunk and smoked for a few dozen minutes, the worthy guide having complained of exhaustion and a suggestive heart flutter, we sit down upon the dust, and with a long breath begin the climb. This lasts half an hour, unless there be a breakdown. It is a half-hour such as a navvy would do a day's work rather than experience. But it does not last forever; and there is joy in the soul of the traveller when he is again within sight of the rusty metal cone, and within reverential hearing of the voice of the mountain.

deed is done. Nothing remains but to go and affirm the

now to the situation that no sensation may be lost. The guide, honest men, stays below the final cone. He looks up to you and sees your black shape in the midst of the fire glow. A nervous woman might scream at your danger; but you are really no less safe than when you stood thus to leeward of the discharge with the sun hot over your head. Down below are the marks of the lamps for many a mile by Napl's royal bay. Naples herself is a city of sparks—nothing else. The night wind shrieks about you, the volcano roars torto at you, the fiery showers come close about your ears, and the heat from your lungs seeps into form trickling down the rocky stair-furrows.

There is, indeed, no lack of food for reflection, both

FRENCH PROVINCIAL SAYINGS

The witliest of nations ought surely to possess the best proverb in the world. French proverbs, accordingly, ought to surpass all others. There is, undoubtedly, but their prevalence is due to somewhat unusual causes. The standard proverbs of most nations survive by reason of their moral worth, their sagacity, their truth. There is, in fact, a little less to be gained a hope to the reader who is to seek light on subjects of everyday occurrence, failing to find favour with the wit who become the hermits of shrewd *différents*. Not in French proverbs, however, the quaintest and most curious of fables heard in a atmosphere of distinction, a faint aroma of levity and polite wit, courtly philosophy, and Bohemian *machénisme*.

And then, insipidly, satirical, and

A rude and often misleading opinion prevails in the proverbs of England, Scotland, and Germany. The

French proverb, on the other hand, is quite up to date in the Frankish use of its pessimism. It was Frederick the Great who said that the "Austrian fight on the side of the big battalions" is less than a good count. He said so in the Germany of that day. The French peasant, on the other hand, has grimly repeated, "qu'il faut élever au plus fort" for centuries, adding the same time that "les gros poissons mangent les petits". Equally true and intensely is the proverb which says that "the good man makes cakes (gâteaux) for the wicked," is a lighter strain, but still in a pessimistic one, is the saying which bids you govern your tongue according to your purse, and that which warns you that

— tous les jours sont mensonges — all dreaming the big
dreaming. "Qui a assez d'argent a assez de parents"

is another luxurious town. Against its harsh exterior we should, however, set off the pure beauty of the fortune does not, necessarily, knock the poor man's door.

There is, indeed, an undertone of laughing at the fall of the popular French too caustic even to Cyprien and yet more than enough to be taken as any falling under the sun. Even the habit has its proverbial justification in the admirable 18th century to the effect that "Cyprien falls from the clouds" makes the fall of the chimney disposed of. A past-master in falconry is said to be like a dentist (*archevêque de dents*). An unscrupulous man is said to have a conscience as expensive as the stone of the alchemist.

According to an old proverb, called the Bishop of the fields, who gives the benediction with his feet.

lawyers and apothecaries, so hateful to the virtuous characters in Molière, are wittily remembered in the

prayer " *Inventons garde d'un tel centre de salut, et d'un quelconque d'apothéose.*" Doctors are further put on the rack in the quite untranslatable phrase, " *Les jeunes modernes qui les croient bous.*" Those who have not experienced the tender mercies of French provincial doctors, as described by Flaubert, and who are not familiar with the village character called *le bous*, will scarcely enjoy the full gist of the proverb.

The man of many promises is described as ruining himself in the making of them, and as paying his debt by force of non-fulfilment. The grasping and avarice

man is said never to forget his hands. It is to put
sails and masts.¹⁹ A certain sort of cunning is cleverly

[illegible]

¹¹ C'est un gros homme de Rouen.

[illegible]

Shakir Pasha's persecution.

MR. ADRIANA PATTI writes:—"I have round
Soap matchless for the hands and complexion. (Signed)
ADRIANA PATTI." Pearls' Soap for toilet and surgery.
Specially prepared for the delicate skin of ladies and children
and others sensitive to the weather.—ADVT.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Today being Christmas Day was observed as a general holiday.

THE WOOL TRADE.

The market has not changed materially since last reported upon. There has been perhaps a little more animation perceptible in the wool market, but no real improvement in prices. Owners' reserves are not now so easily obtained as at the earlier part of the season, and the bulk of the wool is being sold in the market. During the week there have been some well-conditioned wools in the market, but the bulk of the wool is being sold in the market. During the week there have been some well-conditioned wools in the market, but the bulk of the wool is being sold in the market.

An adjustment was made on the 20th instant for the Christmas holiday, the next sale being announced to be held on January 6.

Particulars of offerings and sales are:-

Goldsbrough, Mott, and Co., Dec. 13	1,192	1,192	
J. H. Gidley and Co., Dec. 13	1,192	1,192	
John and Co., Dec. 13	1,192	1,192	
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John and Co., Dec. 13	1,192	1,192	

Total since last July .. 175,835 .. 175,835

Same period in 1888 .. 147,609 .. 147,609

* Auction and privately.

The offerings thus show a decrease of 21,000 bales, while the sales have been very heavy, comprising the following:-

From Sydney .. 3,200 .. 3,200

Abroad (a.s.), December (additional) .. 3,200 .. 3,200

Goldsbrough, Mott, and Co., Dec. 13 .. 3,200 .. 3,200

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WONDERFUL MEDICINE.

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FURNITURE.

FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

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NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL

APPLICATIONS with qualifications will be received by the Committee of Management up to noon on the 15th of January, signed by the Provisional Medical Member SUPERINTENDENT, at the General Dispensary, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney, before 12 noon on the 15th of January, 1900. For further particulars apply to the Secretary.

PERCY MUIR.
Medical Superintendent, General Dispensary, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

PARTNER wanted in well established Wine and Spirit Business, publican preferred: £2000 for half share. Apply, first to Mr. J. H. WILSON, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney, and then to Mr. J. H. WILSON, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

SOUTH AND WEST AUSTRALIAN AGENCY.
S. J. GENTLEMAN resident in Adelaide, representing large firms in Australia, and in connection with the above, commission for export, warehouse, &c. Commercial, large business, and general agency. Apply to S. J. GENTLEMAN, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

STATIONERY ASSISTANT.—A competent, young ASSISTANT, with experience in the manufacture of stationery, and in the management of a printing and manufacturing department. Address, stating salary required and references, Box 115, G. P. O., Sydney.

WALTER HULL.
Medical Superintendent, General Dispensary, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

SYDNEY HOSPITAL.—In consequence of the resignation of Dr. W. CAMAC WILKINSON, Honorary Physician, a VACANCY exists in the Honorary Medical Staff. Applicants for the appointment of HONORARY PHYSICIAN are invited by the Board of Directors to forward their credentials, in writing, to the Secretary, not later than FRIDAY, 26th January next, addressed to the undersigned.

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Medical Superintendent, General Dispensary, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

SYDNEY HOSPITAL.—In consequence of the resignation of Dr. W. CAMAC WILKINSON, Honorary Physician, a VACANCY exists in the Honorary Medical Staff. Applicants for the appointment of HONORARY PHYSICIAN are invited by the Board of Directors to forward their credentials, in writing, to the Secretary, not later than FRIDAY, 26th January next, addressed to the undersigned.

WALTER HULL.
Medical Superintendent, General Dispensary, 10, St. George's Street, Sydney.

TO PAINTERS.—Painters are hereby informed that the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which is being erected by the Sydney Harbour Bridge Engineering Co., Ltd., is now open for the public to view. The Society is not settled; and before accepting employment painters are requested to see J. Hughes, Secretary, with Two Acres, between 10 and 11, St. George's Street, Sydney.

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